

McPherson County Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Proceedings
July 30th, 2026

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 30th, 2026, in the Commissioners chambers. Chairman Mark Opp called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Members present were Neal Woehlhaff, Jeff Neuharth, Sid Feickert and Mike Mardian. The full meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Feickert moved Neuharth seconded to approve the agenda of the July 30th meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Mardian declared a conflict with hiring someone to work on the Air Shaft, no other conflicts were declared.

Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to approve the minutes of the July 6th Commissioner meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 9:00AM public comments were heard from Bruce Mack. Full comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

DRAINAGE COMMISSION:

At 9:35AM Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to meet as the McPherson County Drainage Commission. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The McPherson County Drainage Commission met on Thursday July 30th, 2026. Chairman Sid Feickert called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. Members present were: Mike Mardian, Neal Woehlhaff, Mark Opp and Jeff Neuharth. The Meeting and comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Commissioner Neuharth questioned if a permit would be required for a project that would build a reservoir by damming a waterway. Discussion was held and a permit will be sought if the project moves forward. At 9:40AM Opp moved and Mardian seconded to adjourn the Drainage Commission meeting and resume meeting as the McPherson County Board of Commissioners. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN:

Leola Data Center

Ben Rees, on behalf of the Leola Data Center, gave an update on their Conditional Use permit which has been filed with the Zoning Administrator and will be heard on August 11th at 9am. Public Forums are scheduled for August 8th from 1-3pm at the Leola Legion and from 5-7pm at Prime Time in Eureka. Rees took several questions from the Commissioners and the public.

2026 Primary Runoff Election Canvass

Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded for the Board of Commissioners to convene as the McPherson County Election Canvassing Board for the purpose of canvassing the votes from the July 28th Primary Runoff Election. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The board unsealed the duplicate tally sheets and pollbooks. The tallied totals were compared to the unofficial election results and the canvass report. The commission reviewed the recapitulation reports, the registration lists and pollbooks.

Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to certify the July 28th election results and to sign the canvass certificate. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Courthouse Maintenance

At 10AM one bid was opened and read for two inclined wheelchair platform lifts. Access Elevator, \$130,400. The question was posed on how much money would be required in the future to keep the 100-year-old courthouse functional. A rough estimate from CO-OP Architecture for a new structure was given by Commissioner Mardian. Several other ideas were discussed including county consolidation. Public comments were heard from Tod Gohl, Marian Kallas, Sheri Estep. The discussion and comments can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@McPhersonCountySD>

Discussion was held on the ADA chair lift and question posed to a representative from Access Elevator. A replacement of the current system 1 lift system was quoted at \$64,950. Neuharth moved and Mardian seconded to move forward with replacement of the 1 system lift for 64,950. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Neuharth, Mardian; "Nay" Feickert, Woehlhaff, Opp. Motion Failed. Feickert moved and Woehlhaff seconded to accept the bid from Access Elevator for the 2-lift system for 130,400. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Neuharth, Feickert, Woehlhaff; "Nay" Mardian, Opp. Motion carried. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded that if the courthouse stairways and landings do not support the 2 lift system to move forward with the 1 lift system from Access Elevator. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Neuharth, Mardian, Feickert, Woehlhaff; "Nay" Opp. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the south steps piers, Feickert expects work to begin in 2-3 weeks. Mardian presented a quote from Mardian Construction for the air shaft project to dispel heat from the basement to other areas of the courthouse for 10,731-14,726. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to move forward with the project. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Opp, Woehlhaff, Neuharth, Feickert; Mardian abstained. Motion carried. Discussion was held on the sewer main pipe that needs to be repaired. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to have Sewer Duck measure and advise exactly where the break is. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Courthouse Hours

Questions were raised to Commissioner Mardian on why the courthouse and hwy department operate on different hours. The current courthouse hours of 5 days a week 8am-5pm. Discussion was held on if there is a need to be open earlier in the day.

Provisional Budget 2027

The provisional budget was examined with the changes included from the July 6th commission meeting. The July 30th budget includes reductions to General Fund expenditures of -301,545. State's Attorney Hoffman discussed the State's Attorney budget with the board. Neuharth moved and Woehlhaff seconded to increase the State's Attorney budget by 8,000. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Neuharth, Woehlhaff; "Nay" Mardian, Opp, Feickert. Motion failed. Public comments were heard from Tod Gohl.

Mardian moved and Feickert seconded to approve the presented provisional budget for publication and to set the public hearing for September 1st at 9AM. Upon roll call vote, "Aye" Mardian, Opp, Feickert; "Nay" Neuharth, Woehlhaff. Motion carried.

Highway Department

Hwy Superintendent Glenn Spitzer discussed consulting IMEG for guidance drafting a road haul agreement with Christensen Farms on County Road 18 and 13. The addition of a gas bulk tank at the Leola shop was discussed. Spitzer quoted the board approximately \$5,500, the board raised no objections. Spitzer updated

the board on resealing, motorgrader #904 currently relisted at Ulmer Auction and the hydrology study for the RAIF project structure ID 47-4525-1701 A & B. A question was raised about who's responsibility it is to remove the weeds on the county road by Eureka Lake. Spitzer will contact Eureka City.

Executive Session

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to enter executive session at 12:06PM to discuss personnel matters. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded exit executive session at 12:37PM. All voted in favor. Motion carried. No action taken.

CLAIMS APPROVED:

Amazon, Supplies, \$904.08; ATT, Cellphone/Hotspot/IPads, \$515.85; Big State Industrial Supply, Hwy Supplies, \$159.00; Bobcat of Aberdeen, Hwy Supplies, \$623.73; Lanette Butler, Election Wages & Miles, \$353.70; Century Business Products, Printer Contracts, \$70.25; CHS, Fuel, \$24,655.77; Thomas J Cogley, Court Appointed Attorney, \$658.80; Crawford Trucks & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$512.54; Curt's Repair, Oil Changes, \$251.00; Dean Schaeffer Court Reporting, Mental Health, \$30.00; Sharel Delzer, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Dickey Rural Telephone Coop, Server Maint/Antivirus, \$165.84; Jacalyn Eberhart, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Eureka City, Utilities, \$270.25; Eureka Fire Dept, Fire Tax Premium, \$14,410.09; FEM, Utilities, \$650.85; Zelda Fischer, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Flint Hills, Hwy Supplies, \$136,269.00; Gappa Electric, Electrical Work, \$2,339.34; Gene's Oil, Fuel, \$1,118.89; Heartland Waste, Utilities, \$50.00; Hosmer Fire Dept, Fire Tax Premium, \$1,842.46; IMEG, Hwy Schematic Design, \$1,200.00; J&R Plumbing, Parts/Drain, \$583.58; Jebro INC, Hwy Supplies, \$12,665.82; Jensen Rock & Sand, Hot Mix, \$86,419.80; Connie Jung, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Ken's Food Fair, Hwy Shop Supplies, \$11.59; Perry Kessler, Election Wages & Miles, \$336.20; Kimball Midwest, Hwy Supplies, \$532.78; Lakeside Lumber, Hwy Supplies, \$98.29; Lamb Motor Co, Reissue Ck #57996/New Vehicle, \$49,201.00; Leola City, Utilities, \$243.73; Leola Fire Dept, Fire Tax Premium, \$16,099.66; Lincoln County Auditor, Mental Health, \$961.93; Linde Gas & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$391.72; Long Lake Fire Dept, Fire Tax Premium, \$3,247.51; Long Lake Town, Utilities, \$210.00; McLeod's Printing & Office Supplies, Pollbooks, \$50.63; McPherson Co Conservation Dist, Hwy Supplies-Seed, \$1,567.21; McPherson Co Herald, Publishing, \$693.67; MDU, Utilities, \$1,300.40; Menard's, Supplies, \$245.10; Newman Traffic Signs, \$871.90; North Central Regional E911, July Remittance, \$3,322.26; NW Blade, Publishing, \$685.50; Sherry Perrion, Ck Reissue #56499; \$72.75; Janene Playle, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Pomp's Tire, Hwy Supplies, \$217.30; Premier Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$414.60; Jackie Rau, Reimbursement, \$134.74; Ron's Service Center, Tire Mount/Disposal/Oil Change, \$559.98; Deb Schaefer, Election Wages & Miles, \$334.80; Ina Schock, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; SD Public Health Lab, Tests, \$50.00; SDSU State 4-H Office, Fair Admission/Parking, \$85.00; Share Corp, Hwy Supplies, \$775.60; Sioux Falls Two Way Radio Svc, Programming, \$665.99; Glenn Spitzer, Hood & Assembly, \$2,233.7; Thomson Reuters-West, July West Law, \$890.90; Transource Truck & Equipment, Hwy Supplies, \$1,768.68; TrueNorth Steel, Hwy Supplies, \$54,096.00; TwoTrees Technologies, Email Back-up, \$81.00; Valley Telco, Phone/Internet, \$792.91; Vestis, Courthouse Supplies, \$201.04; Visa, Subs/Postage/Training, \$482.17; Visa, Hwy Supplies, \$430.45; Margaret Walker-Wanner, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Deb Weiszhaar, Election Wages & Miles, \$326.40; Cortrust, Direct Deposit Fee, \$15.00; June 2026 Apportionment Remitted to Cities/Schools/Townships/Fire Districts, \$137,664.83; State Treasurer, Money Due to State, \$62,017.37; State Treasurer, Sales Tax, \$155.18; SDACC, M&P June Fees, \$110.00; July Payroll Reimbursements: Trisha Erdmann, Miles, \$56.00; Dan Mettler, Miles, \$35.00; Logan Heupel, Miles, \$25.20; George Hulscher, Miles, \$98.00.

Feickert moved and Neuharth seconded to approve the forgoing claims. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

Commissioners, \$6,728.05; Auditor, \$9,875.09; Treasurer, \$9,781.73; State's Attorney, \$6,450.48; Government Building, \$3,899.20; Director of Equalization, \$10,364.80; Register of Deeds, \$9,781.73; Veteran Service Officers, \$1,094.60; Sheriff, \$11,866.43; Coroner, \$250.00; Extension, \$4,353.40; Weed, \$2,282.70; Planning & Zoning, \$800.00; Road & Bridge, \$73,856.10; Emergency & Disaster, \$1,416.67; Eureka Joint Law, \$5,206.93; Leola Joint Law, \$5,163.27.

McPherson County's Share of the following:

Social Security and Medicare: CorTrust Bank: \$12,148.35

Insurance: American Family, \$371.00; Avera, \$6,233.99; Guardian Vision, \$150.15; MetLife, \$156.18; South Dakota Retirement System, \$8,676.51; Colonial Life Vision, \$70.07.

Miscellaneous Items and Reports

Neuharth moved and Feickert seconded to approve the following reports: State's Attorney Secretary Hours Reports from March 2026, April 2026, May 2026, June 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

At 1:00PM Woehlhaff moved and Mardian seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The next regular commission meetings will be Tuesday, September 1st and Tuesday, September 22nd both beginning at 9AM. The next zoning meeting will be held on August 11th beginning at 9AM.

ATTEST:

Lindley Howard

McPherson County Auditor

Mark Opp

Chairman, Board of Commissioners